

## INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	USSR (Magadan Oblast)	REPORT		25X1
SUBJECT	Uranium Ore Mining Activities Near Butugychak	DATE DISTR.	26 July 1955	
		NO. OF PAGES	5	25X1
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD	
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES		
DATE ACQUIRED		This is UNEVALUATED Information		25X1

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. [redacted] Budubichak was located three hours by plane from Seymchan (N 62-52, E 152-26) or 80 kilometers from the Matrosovo camp, seven kilometers northwest of Berelyakh (N62-49, E 148-15). [redacted] the place was Butugychak (N 61-18, E 149-11). (See sketch No. 1 on page 2.) 25X1
2. According to Soviets, uranium ore mining activities in this area were begun in 1947. The mine, [redacted] is said to have been opened in 1948 (see sketch No. 2 on page 4). The mine was always called The Butugychak Uranium Mine. Mining activities were supervised by MVD Commissar Kisilkanskiy (fnu). Soviets stated that the installation was subordinate to the MVD administration of Dalstroy. No information was available on the seat of the Dalstroy administration. 25X1
3. The installation was charged with the mining and sorting of uranium ore. Work was done in three shifts. A total of 12 brigades, which worked in four galleries, were assigned to each shift. The average output of each brigade was 32 tons of material per shift. Of this material, two to five percent was forwarded from the sorting station to the ore processing plant, and, of the material sent to the processing plant, ten percent was eliminated as barren rock. Valuable material was packed in blue linen bags and trucked to an airfield from 10 to 15 kilometers south-southwest of the mine. 25X1
4. There were two penal camps near Butugychak. Each of them held a total of approximately 1,800 men who worked in the uranium mine. Twelve brigades of 35 prisoners each worked as miners in each shift; 70 PWs worked above ground; 40 were assigned to ore processing operations; and 70 remained in the camp either because they were sick or for camp duties. About 15 free Soviets civilians were also assigned to the surface work at the mine. An undetermined number of free Soviets also worked at the ore processing plant. The mine area and the ore processing plant were surrounded by a barbed wire fence two meters high. The MVD post at the Kurzergan Camp (sic) had ten officers and 120 enlisted men. MVD guard personnel for the uranium ore mine were detached from this post. 25X1

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

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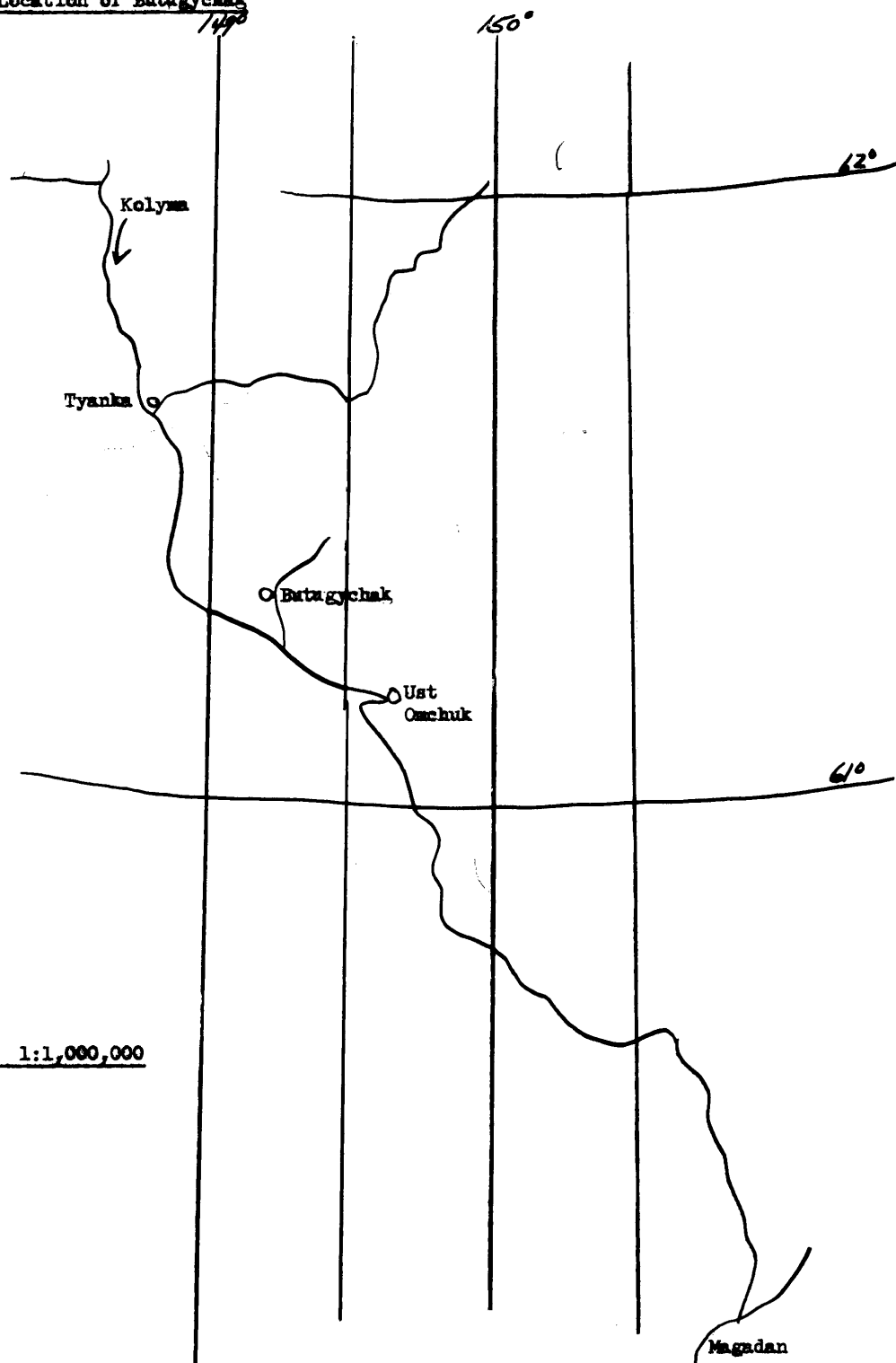
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1. Comment: The headquarters of Dalstroy is located in Magadan.

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Sketch No. 1  
Location of Butagychak



Scale 1:1,000,000

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Legend to Sketch No. 2  
Layout of the Uranium Ore Mine near Butugychak

1. Butugychak settlement
2. Butugychak camp
3. Kurzergan camp (phonetic spelling).
4. To the airfield, 10 to 15 kilometers.
5. Power transmission line.
6. Hill about 100 meters high.
7. Four horizontal galleries: The entrances of these galleries were about 1.5 meters wide and 1.8 to 2 meters high. Conveyor belts ran from the galleries to the sorting station.
8. Conveyor belts.
9. Elevator tower: Steel skeleton structure, about 25 meters high. The elevator cage could house two mine cars with a load capacity of one ton each. The four galleries of the mine were at the same level, each was about 75 meters below ground. The ore mined was hauled to the surface by means of electric mine cars. In July 1949, preparations were made to open up a new level approximately 20 meters below the existing level.
- 9a. Ventilation shaft.
10. Engine house: A wooden structure about 5 meters square.
11. Workshop: A wooden structure about 20 meters square. Machinery was repaired there.
12. Ore sorting plant: A wooden structure about 50 by 20 meters. Three conveyor belts which came from the galleries terminated there. The ore was sorted by hand. The uranium ore looked black or dark green. Three trucks were available to haul the uranium ore to the processing plant.
13. Sawmill and lumber yard.
14. Waste dump: The material on the waste dump looked snowwhite (sic).
15. Ore processing plant: A three-story steel skeleton building, about 80 by 30 meters. Source once passed this building and saw several containers about five meters in diameter on the ground floor. Fellow-PWs who worked at the processing plant stated that the ore was crushed there, separated from the remaining sterile rock, washed, and then put in blue linen bags.
16. Garages: About 30 by 5 meters.
17. Transformer station: A concrete building about five by two meters.
18. Five or six tents where the bags filled with uranium ore were stored.

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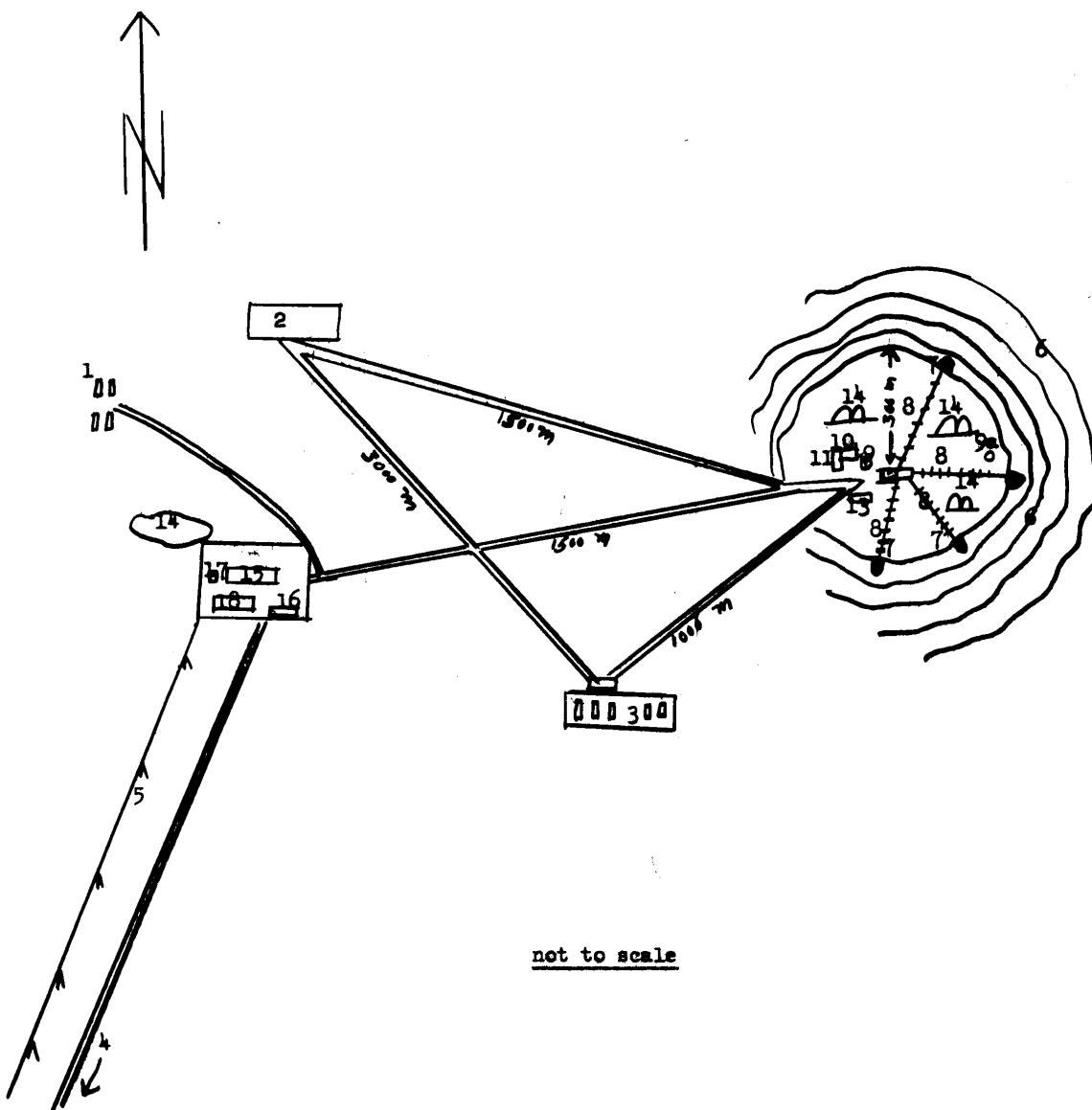
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Sketch No. 2.  
Layout of the Uranium Ore Mine near Butargychak



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